

It is a grave danger to our republic when publicly owned airwaves are used to agitate the populace with propaganda for the ruling party.

I would expect this sort of thing in Monarchies or Dictatorships like Saudi Arabia or in Russia. Now Sinclair broadcasting, in its effort to 'pay back' the president and the FCC for granting monopoly power to broadcasters to own all the media in a market, has become the American "Pravda."

I keep thinking that the authoritarian right can't shock me anymore, that they can't sink any lower. But then I see them pushing again toward a one party state - a totalitarian neo-fascist regime that accuses the opposition party of nothing less than "Treason."

The FCC must order Sinclair to withdraw the plan to pre-empt programming for this hatchet job documentary. Sinclair is said to have invited Kerry to a 'panel' where he can further be pilloried by biased interrogators. That's not equal time, that's an inquisition. Maybe if they showed the recent documentary "Up River" that deals with Kerry's post Vietnam activities in a positive light, you could argue that would satisfy 'equal time' demands, but Sinclair doesn't want a forum to discuss issues, they want a high powered rifle to assassinate Kerry.

I'm disgusted that elites like Michael Powell are signing off to end our democracy and turn our precious republic into a fascist, authoritarian dictatorship. Is there no sense of decency left? Is the FCC simply an arm of the Republican party? Are we doomed to one party rule - the type of rule that crushed humanity for 70 years in the Soviet Union?

Will the FCC allow public airwaves to be harnessed by an authoritarian regime? It's time for the FCC to decide what they think about democracy: TO END or TO DEFEND.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.